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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When ink is sucked from nozzles of a printhead during a cleaning process, a rubber cap having a plural number of small spaces independently operable for ink suction is applied to the print head, and only the space associated with a clogged nozzle is connected to a suction pump. A user may select between a selective cleaning or a conventional cleaning. A valve unit is arranged in an ink supply path located between an ink cartridge and a recording head. The valve unit controls the opening and closing of the ink supply paths between the ink cartridge and the nozzle openings during the cleaning operation of the recording head. By closing valve units disposed on recording heads that do not need cleaning, unnecessary ink suction discharging ink equally through all nozzle openings can be avoided. Therefore costs can be reduced.